HISTORY 295/395: THE AMERICAN SOUTH

Spring 2013

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I expect you to attend class regularly and take notes, and I expect you to do the required reading.

January `	7:	Introduction to the Course	READING ASSSIGNMENTS:
	9:	Indians and Explorers	Boles, chapter 1
	11:	The Chesapeake Colonies	
	14:	Tobacco and Slaves	Boles, chapter 2
	16:	The Carolina Colonies	Boles, chapter 3
	18:	Maturation of the Colonies	
	21:	**NO CLASS: MLK DAY**	
	23:	Development of a Slave Culture	Boles, chapter 4
	25:	The Backcountry: Settlement and Conflict	
	28:	Tension between the Colonies and Britain	Boles, chap. 5; begin Breen
	30:	The South and the American Revolution	Boles, chapters 6–7
February	1:	The South and the New Nation	Finish Breen
	4:	The Enigma of Thomas Jefferson	Boles, chapters 8–10
	6:	Beginning of the Bible Belt	begin Northup
		Strongly recommend you attend a lecture by a visiting scholar, Sydney Nathans, this afternoon. Details to be provided.	
	8:	The Rise of the Old South	Boles, chapters 11–14
	11:	The Cotton Economy	finish Northup
	13:	Slavery in the Old South	**5-page Northup review due**
	15:	Women in the Old South	
	18:	**MID-TERM EXAM**	
	20:	Beginning of Sectionalism	begin Dew
	22:	No class; Boles at conference	
23-March 3:		**SPRING BREAK**	
	4:	The Secession Crisis and Fort Sumter	Boles, chapters 15–17
	6:	Discussion of Dew, *Apostles of Disunion*	finish Dew
	8:	And the War Came	
	11:	Total War	Boles, chapters 18–19
	13:	From Gettysburg to Appomattox	
	15:	Political Reconstruction	
	18:	Social Reconstruction	Boles, chapters 20–21
	20:	Origins of Sharecropping	Boles, chapters 22
	22:	New South Movement	Boles, chap. 23
	25:	The Populist Revolt	Boles, chapter 24,
	27:	Progressivism	
	29:	**MIDTERM RECESS**	
April	1:	The Founding of Rice University	Boles, *A University So Conceived*
	3:	Nadir of Race Relations	Boles, chapter 25

5:	Impact of the New Deal and World War II	Boles, chapter 26
8:	discussion of *Game Day and God*	**A 5-page reaction to or meditation on this book will be due on Friday, April 12**
10:	Segregation Under Attack	Boles, chapter 27–28
12:	The Civil Rights Movement	Boles, chapter 29
15:	The Solid South: Death and Rebirth	Boles, chapters 30-31
17:	The Sunbelt	
19:	Does the Distinctive South Have a Future?	Boles, chapter 32; term papers due

FINAL TAKE-HOME EXAM MUST BE TURNED IN MAY 1 AT 5:00 PM.

This is an introductory course that provides an interpretative survey of the history of the American South. While the format is one of lectures, questions and discussion are welcome at all times. Course requirements include a one-hour mid-term exam, a two-hour take-home final (the final is not cumulative), and a 5-page analytical review (not a summary) of Solomon Northup, due February 17, and a 5-page meditation or reaction piece on *Game Day and God*. **Students taking the course as History 395 will also be required to write a 15-page research paper** based on analyzing the contents of one of six southern urban newspapers (on microfilm) for a month in the calendar year 1913. This project will be explained clearly in class, and the paper will be due on Friday, April 19. For 295 students, each exam will count 33 1/3 percent and the two book reviews combined will count 33 1/3 percent of the final grade; for 395 students, the two exams will each count 25 percent, the two book reviews combined, 25 percent, and the 10-page paper, 25 percent of the final grade. Please feel free to discuss with me any problems you might have with the course and do not worry about "taking my time." My job is to help you learn.

Course objectives: 1) Learning the basic facts and events of southern history and the causal relationships between them; becoming familiar with the economic, social, political, cultural, and racial factors shaping these events. 2) Developing analytical and writing skills: how to read and interpret a book; and, for those taking course as 395, learning how to develop and sustain a historical argument.

Students with a Disability: Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities should also contact Disabled Student Services in the Ley Student Center.

Honor Code Statement: Both exams are covered by the Honor Code. The final take-home exam is a closed-book, closed-note exam, and no collaboration is permissible for the book reviews or the paper. You may discuss the books with friends, but the actual reviews must be your own work, neither read over nor corrected by any other person.

Please purchase and read the following books:

John B. Boles, *The South Through Time: A History of an American Region*

(a two-volume combination package)
T. H. Breen, *Tobacco Culture*
Solomon Northup, *Twelve Years a Slave*
Charles B. Dew, *Apostles of Disunion*
John B. Boles, *A University So Conceived: A Brief History of Rice University*
Eric Bain-Selbo, *Game Day and God: Football, Faith, and Politics in the American South*